

"Baker Will Resume Contacts with New Zealand Counterpart." Segment of Sec of State Baker's Congressional testimony regarding contacts with New Zealand. (900228)

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Text: *EPF303 02/28/90 * **BAKER WILL RESUME CONTACTS WITH NEW ZEALAND COUNTERPART** (300) (Transcript: Baker Q-and-A with Senator Boschwitz)

Washington — During a February 28 Senate Budget Committee hearing, Secretary of State James Baker said he will resume contacts with New Zealand's minister of external affairs and trade. Following is a transcript of the exchange on New Zealand between Baker and Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (Republican of Minnesota): (begin transcript)

Q: Have you given consideration to ending the suspension of high level contacts with New Zealand? BAKER: Senator Boschwitz, it's been my view for some time now that we really ought to look anew at our ban on high-level contacts with New Zealand. I think we should continue our ban on military, intelligence, and security cooperation because of the position of the New Zealand government with respect to our neither-confirm-nor-deny policy regarding naval ships. I think we ought to continue to suspend our defense obligations to New Zealand under the **ANZUS** Treaty. But I don't think that it makes very good sense, frankly, to continue a ban on high-level contacts on matters other than military or intelligence. To give you an example of what I mean, the New Zealanders were very supportive of positions that the United States took in the United Nations on driftnet fishing. We find ourselves on the same side of drug issues, narcotics issues, and other things. And I think it's short-sighted for us to say that we cannot have any high-level political contacts and I intend to, as far as I'm concerned, resume contacts with my counterpart. Q: I agree its unfortunate the relationship has deteriorated. They and the Aussies supported us in several conflicts: BAKER: I think we have fought together in four wars in this century, Senator. (end Baker-Boschwitz transcript on New Zealand) NNNN